

Your mom isn't
here to pick up
after you... in
your dorm or
on the rest of
campus



Speaker: Madison Glass

Jonathan Hume, McKenzie Stefanoff,
Brandon Butler, and Madison Glass
research and explain the litter that
plagues the Wright State University Woods
and what we can do about it as a
campus community

Conservation of the Wright State University Woods

Plan by – Jonathan Hume, Brandon Butler,
Madison Glass, and Mckenzie Stefanoff





Statement of Purpose

- To shed light on an area of concern and through education and awareness inspire participation in the conservation of the Wright State University Woods
- We want to create a sense of ownership to the woods within the campus community

Goal

- We aim to set up a program that will allow students and faculty to join in efforts to keep the Wright State woods clean and healthy and therefore increase the longevity of the forested areas on campus



Currently

- The wright state woods are a mix of old growth sanctuaries and successional forest land, divided into four distinct parts by university boulevard, raider road, and a power corridor. Each area contains a portion of a stream
- Separated into four main areas with a few smaller surrounding areas
- These areas are separated by roads and parking lots
- Species within the woods: white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, white-breasted nuthatch, blue jay, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, Carolina chickadee, American robin, tufted titmouse, and the Indiana bat
- Several other species; plants, microorganisms, etc.



Area 1: large with one small creek running through

Area 2: largest continuous area containing Wright State historical cemetery and memorial

Area 3: separated by power line corridor, contains lots of undergrowth

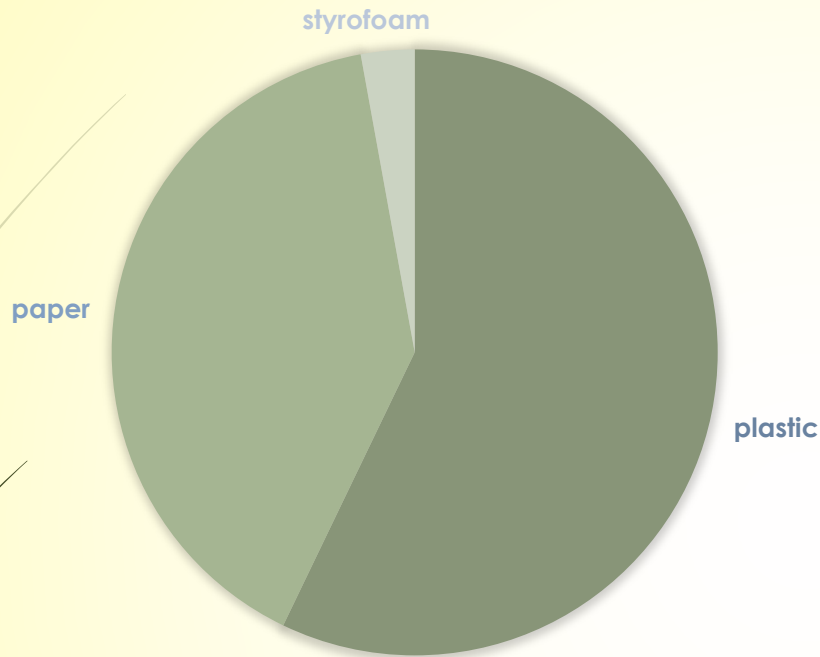
Area 4: Degraded old-growth surrounded by roads and sports fields



What we found



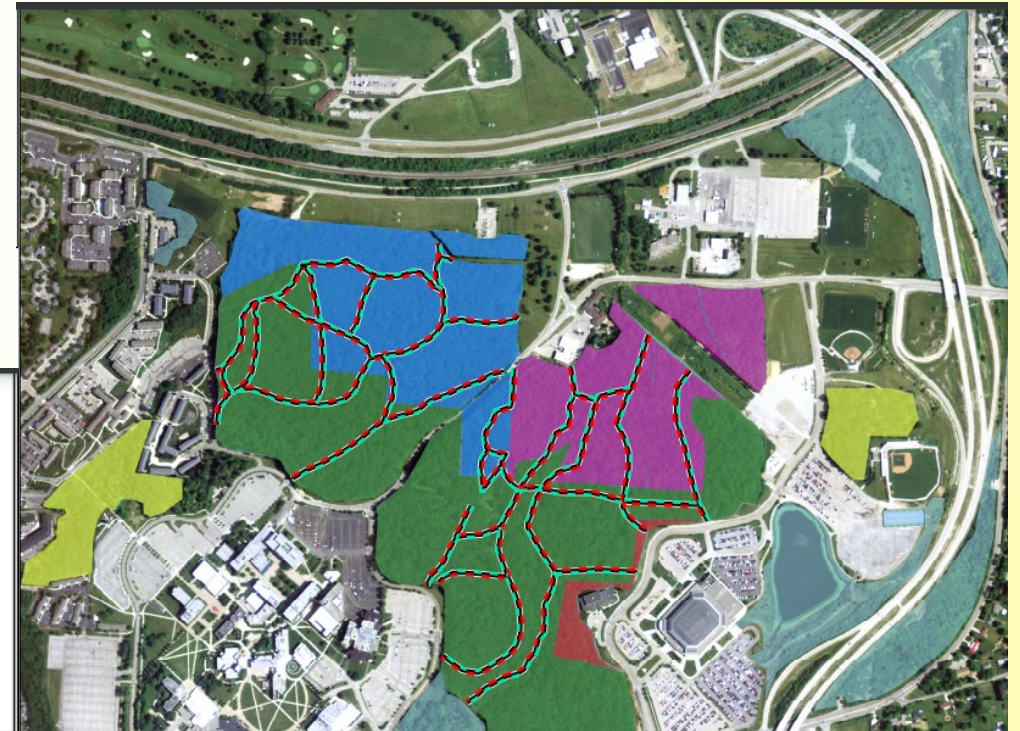
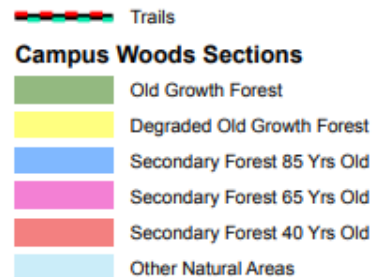
RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF TYPES OF LITTER FOUND WITHIN THE WOODS



- Our team went out for a few hikes to try to get a feel for what state the woods were really in
- We mostly stuck to trails and roads, but went off the beaten path a little as well

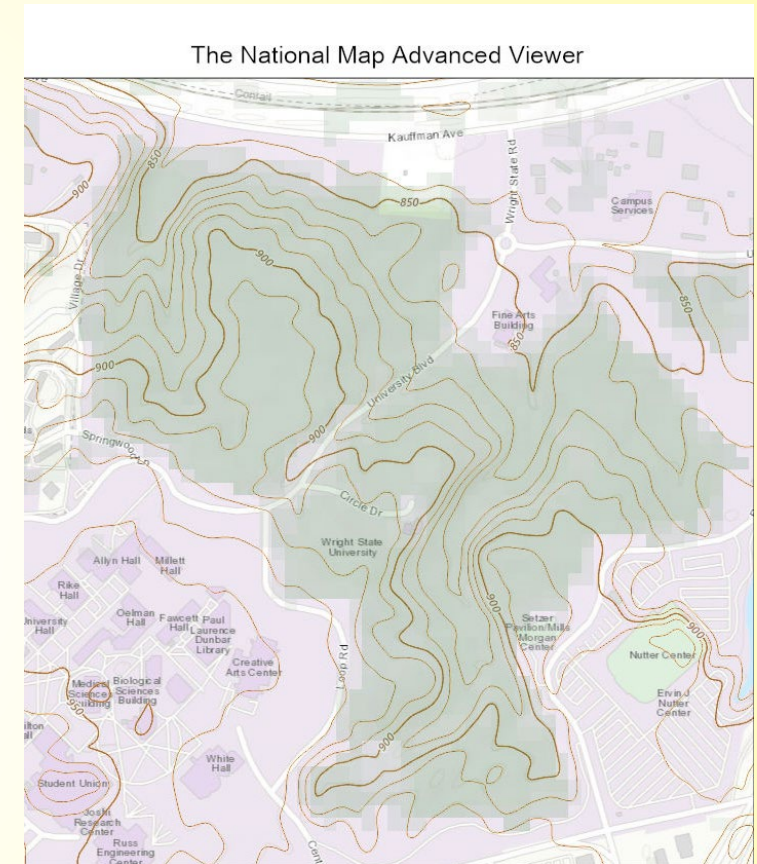
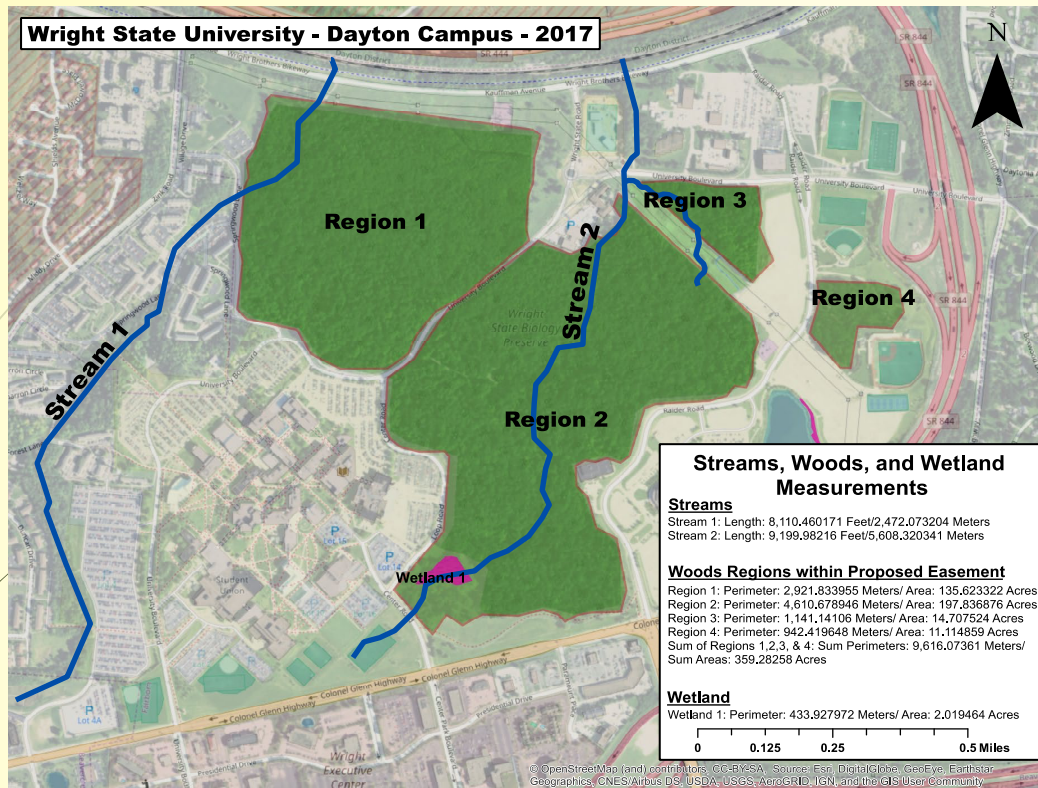
* It is important to note that these observations were taken during mid-autumn. The abundance of leaves on the ground obstructed some of our findings

Campus Natural Areas Map



The problem
with streams
and water
flow.





- Accumulation of litter in streams
- Litter from campus housing being washed into the forest
- Runoff from parking lots washing into the woods



Threats and Assets

- Litter can spoil the landscape *
- It can harm small animals and insects
- Threats to river systems:
 - Can decrease the oxygen concentration in water
 - Reduce light exposure
 - Build up of harmful toxins in water and soil
- The list of reasons to conserve the Wright State woods is too long to fit into any single report.
 - Research
 - Education
 - Appeal to students
 - Overall care for our city and community

Action Plan

- Adopt a Trail Initiative
- Examples of this idea:
 - The Great Smokey Mountains National Parks
 - Adopt a highway program
- How will this work on a college campus?



Works Cited

1. About Us - Adopt A Highway Litter Removal Service of America. (2020, June 16). Retrieved November 23, 2020, from https://adoptahighway.net/about-us/?gclid=CjwKCAiA2O39BRBjEiwApB2lkuixm0S20oLbCKjvriwE-tbo5Ano6yPSO935-hwvuyGu3n6L2lgRWxoCUT0QAvD_BwE
2. Adopt a Trail Program. (n.d.). Retrieved November 23, 2020, from <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/getinvolved/supportyourpark/adopt-a-trail.htm>
3. Smith, K. (2019, February 10). Fighting Waste in the Wild: The Effect of Litter on Rivers: River Cleanup. Retrieved November 23, 2020, from <https://triadrivertours.com/river-research/2019/2/9/fighting-waste-in-the-wild-the-effect-of-litter-on-rivers>
4. A special thanks to Dr. Bahn for all his help and encouragement on this project and for providing many of the maps and images found in this presentation.